

No sweat toning and firming, 1B



Swimming all-area, 1D

Mayor's survey irks council members, 2A

Farmington Observer

Volume 100 Number 49

Thursday, March 23, 1989

Farmington, Michigan

80 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

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To write the Observer: 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0500; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-9722.

CITY manager Robert Deadman of Farmington paused at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce State of the Cities breakfast Friday after discussing solid waste disposal, Rouge River water quality, road improvements and a proposed community library expansion.

"I didn't bring you a lot of good news. I brought you a lot of expensive news. That's not normally my forte. I don't really like to do that. You don't survive in office a long time when you do that."

"But I see with the environmental concerns, there are no options. You must correct the problems."

He said the Farmington Community Library would be expanded "if there's community support for it. But quite frankly, I hope there is. Then those problems (caused by greatly increased usage at the 12 Mile branch) will be solved and we will have the ability to have the kinds of library services we've had in the past."

QUOTE of the week

“What a crowd. This just goes to show how much you are loved and how much your daughter was loved.”

— The Rev. Edward Belczak, speaking to the parents of Farmington Hills murder victim Kristina Marie Fracchia at her funeral Monday (see story this page).

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Observer and Eccentric Classifieds Work!

"My boat sold within hours of the notice in your paper. Service was excellent. I was very pleased. Thank you! R. Skodack of Livonia. One call does it all!"

WAYNE COUNTY
591-0900

Murdered student was 'lively spirit'



Pall bearers bring the casket of Kristina Marie Fracchia into St. Fabian Catholic Church Monday morning.

□ Parents eulogize their daughter, 4A

By Susan Buck staff writer

Kristina Marie Fracchia, a Farmington Hill Mercy High Junior who



Kristina Marie Fracchia was a junior at Mercy High, an all-girls Catholic school in Farmington Hills.

drowned in what police say was a murder, was eulogized Monday as a "lively spirit."

"Tina always wanted to be where the action is," said the Rev. Edward Belczak at funeral services in St. Fabian Catholic Church, Farmington Hills. "When you were in her company, you were never bored."

Mercy High, an all-girls Catholic school, was closed for classes Monday — officially designated a day of mourning.

Students lightened up slightly at Belczak's characterization of their classmate, laughed and nodded in agreement. "Some people are not cut out to learn from books, but from experience," Belczak said.

Belczak, pastor at St. Thomas More Church in Troy, knew the 17-year-old Farmington Hills resident when she was a student at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington in the early 1980s. He heard her first confession.

"What a crowd!" Belczak said to Tina's parents, Robert and Sandra, in reaction to the packed-to-capacity sanctuary. "This just goes to show how much you are loved and how much your daughter was loved."

Mourners — family, friends, schoolmates, teachers stood in double lines in some sections of the sanctuary to bid farewell.

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Cops: Fracchia threatened girl



Anthony Joseph Bonelli is a student at the Farmington Training Center, a special education center.

By Carolyn DeMarco staff writer

In the week before she was found murdered, police say Kristina Marie Fracchia made several threatening telephone calls to a teenage girl in West Bloomfield.

Apparently, both were girlfriends of Anthony Joseph Bonelli, a 17-year-old Farmington Hills youth charged with open murder in the drowning death of Fracchia, 17, also of Farmington Hills.

Bonelli will face a preliminary examination at 9 a.m. Thursday, March 30, before Judge Edward Avadenka in 48th District Court, Bloomfield Township.

West Bloomfield police Sgt. Mike Madigan said his department received several complaints early last week from a West Bloomfield

Apparently, both were girlfriends of Anthony Joseph Bonelli, a 17-year-old Farmington Hills youth charged with open murder in the drowning death of Fracchia.

family, charging that Fracchia made threatening telephone calls to their teenage daughter.

Bonelli has been held without bond in the Oakland County Jail since his arraignment Saturday before Oakland County Magistrate Daniel Desmet. Bonelli stood mute and an innocent plea was entered in his behalf.

No defense attorney has been named. Assistant Oakland County prosecutor Fred Miller will prosecute the case.

FRACCHIA'S FULLY clothed body was found by county drain commission workers 9:30 a.m. Friday floating face up in 18 inches of water, 50 feet from the north shore

of Orchard Lake in the city of Orchard Lake Village. They were inspecting a water-level control pump.

An autopsy revealed that Fracchia had drowned. Toxicology tests are incomplete.

Police believe Fracchia and Bonelli drove to the Orchard Lake site Wednesday night, March 15, in Fracchia's car, and that she died there that evening.

Bonelli then drove the white Chevrolet Beretta away, parked it temporarily on a Farmington Hills street and returned it to the scene — off Commerce Road, west of Indian Trail — March 16. The car keys and Fracchia's identification were found inside, according to police.

Fracchia reportedly had been away from home since Sunday.

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Defendant Jon Vermeulen looks through papers at the defense table during his circuit court trial.

Murder suspect testifies: 'I didn't want her to leave me'

By Janice Brunson staff writer

Nearly 39 months to the day after killing his bride of six weeks, Jon Vermeulen's fate is now in the hands of jurors, who must decide whether the death of Urtime Lewis Vermeulen was a tragic accident by a suicidal husband or premeditated murder by a spurned mate.

Vermeulen is charged with first-degree murder and felony firearms possession in the shooting death of the woman he knew as "Renae" on Dec. 28, 1985, in the couple's two-bedroom unit at Muirwood Apartments in Farmington Hills. He is

being tried in Oakland County Circuit Court.

The jury received the case Wednesday after three days of testimony, including a tearful recounting by Vermeulen, who said he fell deeply in love with Lewis on first meeting her in August 1985.

But Lewis, 24, described in court as a "kept woman by an old man" and called a "prostitute" in a letter by Vermeulen after the shooting, was planning to file for divorce on the day she died.

"I didn't want her to leave me. But I knew she had to. I just wanted the pain to stop," Vermeulen said in explaining his suicide at-

tempt. "I pointed the gun at my chest where I thought my heart was, pulled the hammer back and fired. The explosion was horrendous."

Within seconds, he added, Lewis appeared at his side and was shot "by reflexive action" as she bent to help him.

"HER EYES went blank. I knew she was dead," Vermeulen said. "I just held her for a long time," until he realized "I wasn't dying." Then, he said, he shot himself a second time in the stomach.

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Sibling priority upheld at Highmeadow

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

The Farmington school board didn't change its mind. New first graders with brothers and sisters enrolled at Highmeadow Common Campus will be given preferred enrollment at the alternative elementary in 1989-90.

School board members refused to rescind its sibling priority policy Tuesday despite charges from angry parents of preferential treatment and that the enrollment policy was abruptly changed in midstream.

"I perceive we were invited to an open lottery," said parent Cindi Cohen. "Please don't change the rules in the middle."

A youngster in the audience stepped up to give her opinion: "I want to go to Highmeadow just like everybody else. So I should get a chance just like everybody else. You broke the rules."

The school board's decision Tuesday was greeted with parents holding posters declaring: "Highmeadow supported by tax dollars" and "Equal opportunity for all district children."

All but a few parents who spoke in the standing-room-only board room opposed the board's decision March 14 to abandon administrators' recommendation for an open lottery and establish a sibling preference policy. Many Highmeadow parents favoring sibling priority just listened.

IN A show of unity, board members unanimously defeated a motion to return to the open lottery policy. Their vote clears the way for enrollment of 30 incoming first graders who already have siblings attending Highmeadow.

'I'm very sorry for the confusion. I regret it.'

— Susan Rennels

Another 23 students will be selected through a lottery system from the attendance areas for four over-crowded elementary — Flanders, Longacre, Larkshire and Wood Creek — to fill the remaining first-grade slots at Highmeadow.

The board's March 14 decision to

follow a sibling priority policy came after Highmeadow parents asked that their other children be given preference for enrollment openings to keep families together. But the decision also came after administrators

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